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(71) Applicant: **Pacesetter, Inc.**
Sylmar, California 91392-9221 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• Lu, Richard
• CA 91320 (US)

- DAWSON, Albert
Littleton, CO 80120 (US)
- Greenhut, Saul
CO 80013 (US)
- Steinhaus, Bruce
Flagstaff AZ 86001 (US)

(74) Representative: Shaya, Darrin Maurice
Marks & Clerk,
57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3LS (GB)

(54) Apparatus for preventing development of atrial fibrillation

(57) An implanted pacemaker senses intrinsic atrial events and generates corresponding pacing pulses. The atrial events are also monitored for a precursor of an atrial fibrillation episode. If such a precursor is detected, the pacemaker generates therapy designed to prevent the atrial fibrillation episode. For example, the atrium and/or the ventricle may be overdriven at a pacing rate above the intrinsic rate.

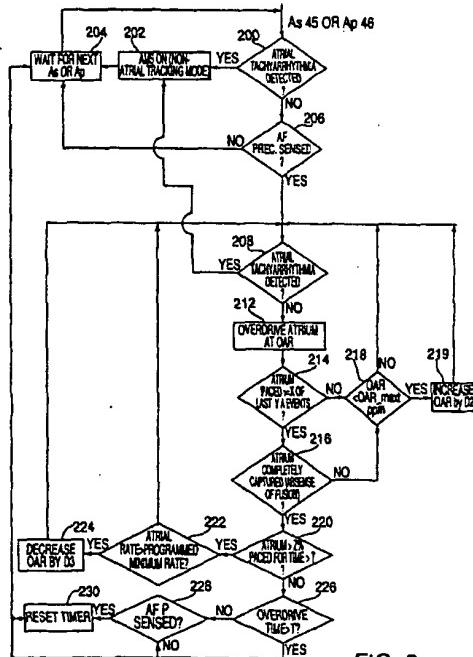


FIG. 6



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 98 30 6453
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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X	EP 0 547 734 A (TELECTRONICS NV) 23 June 1993 (1993-06-23) * abstract * * column 2, line 3 - line 12 * * column 3, line 20 - line 32 * * column 7, line 18 - line 56 * * column 19, line 11 - line 49 * ---	1,6,7, 14,15, 33,34, 37,40-42	A61N1/39 A61N1/368
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A	---	9,10,36 -/-	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A61N
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely : 1-20, 33-42</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched : 21-32</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	13 December 1999	Ferrigno, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 98 30 6453

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages .	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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